THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In its first meeting held at Coal India Ltd. Headquarters, Kolkata, Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-VII (JBCI-VII) decided that all coal employees will be paid Interim Relief at the rate of 15 per cent of basic pay as on 01-01-2004 with effect from January, 2004. The same has been implemented in Singareni Collieries Company Limited also with effect from 01.01.2004.

(b) Constitution of JBCCII-VII was initially withheld, as arrears arising out of NCWA-VI could not be fully paid due to financial constraints. Last instalment of arrear was paid by CIL in July, 2002. Thereafter, in the meeting taken by the then Minister and trade unions, it was decided that private coal companies should also be party to wage negotiations in Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (JBCCI) but they refused to participate in wage negotiations. Therefore there was delay in constitution of JBCCI-VII, and it could be constituted only in July, 2003. The first meeting was held on 12-1-2004 and 15% Interim Relief was agreed to be paid *w.e.f.* 1-1-2004.

During negotiations, agreement could not be reached on certain issues like compassionate appointment, attendance bonus, 100 per cent D.A. neutralization etc. Therefore a Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence was constituted on 16-11-2004 to look into the larger issues concerning the ongoing wage negotiation in best interest of industry, labour and national economy. GoN directed Minister of State for Coal & Mines to hold separate discussions with the Unions. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 3-5-2005 in which a broad consensus was reached. Subsequently, with the approval of GoM, the National Coal Wage Agreement V-II was signed on 15-7-2005.

Damage to shovel machines

†1660. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to negligence of Deputy Chief General Manager and concerned Mine Officer in Western Section of Jayant Project in N.C.L. Singrauli, a new P & H-8 shovel machine worth Rs. 8 crore has perished completely;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that shovel machine worth Rs. 8-10 crores belonging to Khadia Development Project was damaged completely in an accident during the last year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decline registered in production; and

(e) the details of the action taken so far by Government/Department against the culprits in both cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) It is not a fact that the P&H shovel machine worth Rs. 8 crores deployed in Western Section of Jayant Project of NCL has perished completely.

An incident of sudden slide of O.B. occurred on 25th August, 2001 when the P&H 1900 Shovel No. 8 was working near 8 hillock which had a crack and could not be noticed during regular mine inspection. This shovel was partially damaged, which was taken out for repair on the 3rd day of the incident. The present cost of this model shovel is approximately Rs. 16 crores. This shovel is not new and this shovel was commissioned on 6/8/1999.

The incident was thoroughly enquired and examined by a committee consisting of senior officers. While attributing the presence of hidden slip, which could not be noticed during regular mine inspection, as the root cause responsible for the accident, the committee found the shift incharge and Section Manager of the coal company responsible for failing of their duties and not taking necessary precautions. They were issued warning letters.

The shovel was recommissioned on 1st January, 2003 after necessary repairs. The total cost of repairs including parts was Rs. 2.89 crores.

(c) As reported by Coal India Limited it is not a fact that shovel machine worth Rs. 8 crores belonging to Khadia Project was damaged completely in an accident last year. However, on 23rd October, 2004, at about 8.30 PM, the BE-195 10 Cubic Metre Shovel having CIL No. EXC-1696, named Vikas was partially damaged during the idle hours, due to sudden slide of Dragline dump. The machine was kept at safe distance. In spite of all precautions taken as stipulated by Department of Mines and other agencies

governing the operation and maintenance of Draglines and its dump stability the machine was partially affected in above slide.

(d) (i) the shovel was repaired within three and half months and is being operated satisfactorily. Time lost due to repair of this shovel got adjusted with its annual maintenance period. Hence, there was not loss of productive time.

(ii) The total repair and maintenance cost were Rs. 35.34 lakhs approximately (2.84% of the cost of the shovel), to bring the shovel in state of full fledged operation.

(iii) Though the shovel was out of operation for three and half months, still the coal production (in which the shovel was deployed) for the financial year 2004-05 was Rs. 39.33 lakhs tonnes against the targeted production of 38 lakhs tonnes, which is highest ever since inception of mine.

(e) (i) In case of Jayant Project as already mentioned in reply to parts (a) & (b) above, on the basis of the enquiry report warning letters have been issued to Shift Incharge and Section Manager.

(ii) In case of Khadia Project since the incident took place much after blasting and was sudden in nature, hence, this can only be attributed to causes beyond human detection and control.

Irregularities in SECL Gevra/Dipika Mines

†1661. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enquiry has been conducted by various agencies regarding irregularities in Gevra/Dipika Coal Mines under SECL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Vigilance Officer of Coal India Ltd. has accepted these as serious irregularities;

(c) whether the CBI has expressed its unawareness regarding the said irregularities in its first report;

(d) whether the CBI has suggested some measures to check such irregularities in its second report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.